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Elimination of unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion

Letter dated 24 June 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As you are aware, on 23 June, the United States Secretaries of the Department of State and the Department of the Treasury in a joint statement declared the United States new unilateral sanctions against some Iranian companies and individuals including Iran Air, the Islamic Republic of Iran's civilian airline company. In pursuance of its overwhelmingly politicized aggressive policy of sanctions against the Iranian nation, the United States administration, once again, has sought recourse to a set of untrue and void allegations against my country in order to justify its unfair treatment towards the Iranian people.

Those accusatory allegations raised against the Islamic Republic of Iran in the joint statement are yet another example of misrepresentation of the realities on the ground in the interest of certain circles of political and economic power to further their hegemonic policies in the Middle East region, and also a deception tactic to avert the attention of United States citizens from many unfruitful and failed policies at the domestic and foreign levels.

Against the United States hypocritical and politically biased allegation claiming that its sanctions are merely focused on certain companies and legal and real entities involved in activities supporting Iran's nuclear programme or some foreign groups, there is no doubt that the main purpose of such an unrealistic and hostile policy is to affect the lives of the entire Iranian population. We would like to reiterate that this policy is tantamount to economic and political blackmail against a sovereign Member State of the United Nations, and constitutes a serious violation of United States obligations under the provision of international law on the non-applicability of sanctions against civilian populations.

Today, the United States administration is behaving in a manner that few nations across the world could deny, the fact that its main objective is to deprive the Iranian people of their most basic human rights, including the right of free movement. Since Iran Air helps millions of Iranian people to connect to and interact with other nations in and out of the country, the inimical nature of the United States

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measures against civil and commercial companies, including Iran Air, not only clearly runs counter to its hollow propaganda on its support of the promotion of cultural relations among nations but also is considered by the Iranian people an act as hostile as downing the Iranian commercial jetliner in the Persian Gulf by a United States warship in July 1998, resulting in the death of 269 innocent Iranians, including tens of women and children.

We sincerely expect that, in your capacity as one of the most prominent international personalities and the head of the world's largest international organization, you will continue your invaluable efforts in shedding light on the realities and help the nations of the world to understand the underlying facts about the ongoing unjust activities aimed at distracting the world's attention from what is really happening in the Middle East. Continuation of this awkward policy is extremely dangerous and will never serve the maintenance of international peace and security.

I would like to stress that the United Nations, as the largest international organization mainly responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, has a fundamental responsibility to mobilize the international community to face up to such disastrous threats to those nations that are merely endeavouring to attain their legitimate and undeniable rights under international law.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31.

(*Signed*) Mohammad **Khazaee**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative